



City Administrator's Report

August 2005

Dear Reader,

This monthly report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to share your comments and suggestions with us.

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If you would like to be taken off the hard copy mailing list, please call the City Administrator's Office at (805) 564-5305 or e-mail Mindy Jackson at mjackson@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Key Meetings:

August 2, 9, 16, 23 ▪ City Council

Community Events:

- August 3-7 ▪ Santa Barbara Old Spanish Days – Fiesta, www.oldspanishdays-fiesta.org, (805) 962-8101
- August 6 ▪ Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, Alameda Park, 7 a.m. - noon
- Children's Fiesta Parade – State Street from Victoria to Ortega Streets, 10 a.m.
- Santa Barbara Mariachi Festival, Santa Barbara Bowl, 1122 North Milpas Street, 6 p.m., www.ticketmaster.com
- August 7 ▪ Fiesta Finale, Courthouse Sunken Gardens, 8 - 9:15 p.m.
- August 14 ▪ Renaissance Faire at Santa Barbara Central Library, 1-5 p.m.
- August 20 ▪ Woodies at the Beach 2005, Santa Barbara City College, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m., (805) 641-3237, www.californiawoodies.com

Flags on State Street:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| August 1-8 | ▪ Old Spanish Days - Fiesta |
| August 8-22 | ▪ Domestic Violence Solutions |
| August 22-31 | ▪ United Way |

Free Thursday Concerts at Chase Palm Park, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

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| August 11 | The Jumpin' Joz Band – Swing |
| August 18 | Somos Son – Cuban Salsa |
| August 25 | Porterhouse Bob & Down to the Bone – Blues-Zydeco |

City Administrator

Wildland Fire Program receives praise: In May 2004, the City Council approved implementation of a Wildland Fire Program. Staff has been working on the details and will return in September to the City Council with a briefing and schedule for next steps.

The plan has received much acclaim: "Of the dozens of plans reviewed by the APA's (American Planning Association) research department, the Santa Barbara plan is one of the most systematic, sophisticated and thoughtful and may well be a model for other communities."

Loma Alta/TV Hill clean-up completed after three weeks of hard work: Not including brush, approximately 92 tons of garbage was removed from the hillside. The next steps to maintain a clean and secure condition include fencing the property and around-the-clock security.

Green Team formed: What is the city doing to protect the environment and to conserve resources? What more can we do through instituting "best practices" in our day-to-day operations? How can we become a more sustainable community?

These and other questions are being addressed by a 15 member **Green Team** recently established through the City Administrator's Office with staff representatives from city departments. The Green Team's charge is to develop content to formalize the city's environmental program starting with a report to the City Council later this fall. The report will include detailed information on previous and current activities and projects, along with recommendations for how we might improve to become an environmental leader among California cities.

Don Olson from the City Administrator's Office is providing staff support for the Green Team during this initial phase. He can be reached at 564-5312 or at dolson@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

If you have suggestions for consideration by the Green Team or would like to receive additional information, please contact one of the Green Team members.

2005-2006 Charitable Giving Campaign is October 1st-31st: Activities include “Fun in the Sun/Lunch Bunch” dates from August 8th -11th. To participate, call Linda Gunther at (805) 564-5305. The 17th Annual Day of Caring is set for September 17th. City employees will join hundreds of other community members in volunteering for projects at various work sites in Santa Barbara. One such location will be the well-used Ortega Park Welcome House, home to many Eastside family events and the “Fun in the Sun” program. Please contact Nancy Rapp, deputy chair for the campaign, at (805) 564-5431 for more information.

All about mentoring: If you or someone you know is interested in being a mentor during the upcoming school year, please attend an informative session at 10 a.m., August 10th, in the Council Chambers at Santa Barbara City Hall.

Airport Department

Heavy summer passenger volume climbs to 75,784 in June: That number represents 4.6% more than the same month last year, making it the second highest June in Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) history. The highest occurred in 1997. Comparatively, the national average showed a 1.5% increase in June passenger traffic. SBA's non-stop routes with the highest passenger volumes on average were Dallas/Fort Worth (American Eagle) at 93%, Denver (United Express) at 91%, and Las Vegas (America West Express) at 86%. Year-to-date, the passenger count is up 7.6% over 2004.

SBA airlines have impressive on-time record: Of the top 100 U.S. airports, Santa Barbara had the second highest percent of domestic on-time flights during May (latest available data): 91.8% of departures and 89.4% of arrivals were on-time. The highest on-time record was Kahului, Maui (95.9% and 91.3%), and the lowest was Anchorage, Alaska (70.7% and 67.1%). SBA has nonstop service between 10 hub airports; five of which are among the top 12 in the world: Los Angeles (5), Dallas/Ft. Worth (6), Denver (10), Las Vegas (11), and Phoenix (12).

Tidal circulation and bird strike experiment project update: This demonstration project was recently modified to restore tidal action to one Goleta Slough basin instead of two basins, due to cost. The Airport will be seeking a Coastal Development Permit amendment from the Coastal Commission for the modified experiment. Surveys are underway to determine bird activity and invertebrate communities prior to construction in order to measure existing conditions. The surveys will continue during and following project implementation to monitor changes. Construction is expected to begin this month at a cost of approximately \$700,000.

Parcel 22 (6100 Hollister Avenue) developer selected: After an open and competitive process, Bermant Development Company's (BDC) Citrix Centre proposal was selected for development of this parcel. The proposed development is 160,000 square feet of research and development office space and 20,000 square feet of service retail on 15 acres of land at the Airport. City Council authorized Airport Department staff to negotiate a 50-year ground lease with BDC. The office, and research and development buildings are being designed for Citrix Online's Santa Barbara headquarters. Citrix Online, formerly, Expertcity, an access software development company, will fund 89% of the development. Construction is expected to begin late spring or early summer 2006.

Finance Department

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) update: Great news for the month of June: TOT revenue was up 18.9% from the prior June. Our fiscal year 2005 growth was 6.9% and revenue was almost \$400,000 over budget. We had expected to exceed budget, but not by such a large amount. In the first three quarters of the year, we experienced only a 4.7% growth, but the final quarter (April - June) grew by 12.9%!

	FY 2001	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year	FY 2004	Change from Prior Year	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,204,593	\$ 1,171,041	-2.8%	\$ 1,183,951	1.1%	\$ 1,198,952	1.3%	\$ 1,301,652	8.6%
Aug	1,246,973	1,276,212	2.3%	1,328,278	4.1%	1,349,990	1.6%	1,357,717	0.6%
Sept	952,314	808,657	-15.1%	849,174	5.0%	887,095	4.5%	931,244	5.0%
Oct	839,946	790,919	-5.8%	830,054	4.9%	863,919	4.1%	914,718	5.9%
Nov	691,398	653,829	-5.4%	684,776	4.7%	696,742	1.7%	721,982	3.6%
Dec	594,145	539,598	-9.2%	529,694	-1.8%	553,094	4.4%	575,075	4.0%
Jan	578,703	511,090	-11.7%	583,413	14.2%	584,653	0.2%	606,484	3.7%
Feb	628,764	611,322	-2.8%	616,824	0.9%	703,493	14.1%	699,349	-0.6%
Mar	769,047	783,829	1.9%	704,942	-10.1%	782,652	11.0%	872,554	11.5%
April	810,450	822,209	1.5%	793,352	-3.5%	875,760	10.4%	941,281	7.5%
May	841,975	856,251	1.7%	817,047	-4.6%	895,378	9.6%	1,001,438	11.8%
June	1,012,439	1,012,905	0.0%	942,897	-6.9%	973,955	3.3%	\$1,157,985	18.9%
FY Total	\$ 10,170,747	\$ 9,837,862	-3.3%	\$ 9,864,403	0.3%	\$ 10,365,683	5.1%	\$ 11,081,478	6.9%
Budget	\$ 10,065,000	\$ 9,779,115		\$ 9,974,700		\$ 10,273,900		\$ 10,684,900	

Note: This report includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creek Restoration and Water Quality Improvement (Measure B).

Community Development Department

Planning Commission update: On August 11th, the Planning Commission will conclude the Conditions, Trends & Issues phase of the General Plan Update and review the next steps upcoming in Phase II. The Commission will also make recommendations to the City Council regarding two proposed ordinances: the Reasonable Accommodation Ordinance, intended to fulfill a state mandate to ensure the city's development review process provides reasonable accommodation for all those with disabilities; and the Tenant Displacement Assistance Ordinance, to assist residential tenants who have been displaced due to a proposed demolition or change of use.

On August 18th, the Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to hold a public hearing on a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for a proposed 10-unit condominium project at 210 Meigs Road, among other items.

On August 25th, the Planning Commission will receive its semi-annual update on the status of Measure E (Charter Section 1508), which regulates the amount of non-residential growth in the city. The Commission will also consider approval of the latest Coastal Development Permit for the Waterfront Sediment Management Plan, which regulates city dredging of sand at the waterfront.

East Cabrillo Boulevard sidewalk replacement: The Redevelopment Agency has budgeted \$3.1 million to replace the sidewalks along the southerly stretch (ocean side) of East Cabrillo Blvd between the eastern edge of the Mission Creek bridge and Milpas Street. Improvements anticipated for this mile-long promenade include new concrete, enhancement of the parkway planters, and pedestrian amenities. Construction is anticipated to begin in the early part of 2006 and occur over four months.

West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project: The Redevelopment Agency has appropriated \$2 million to enhance the pedestrian linkage between Stearns Wharf and Breakwater Village. The project will likely include sidewalk replacement, lighting, and other pedestrian improvements in the beachfront area. A conceptual design study is underway, and will provide information and cost estimates for a variety of improvements to enhance this beautiful and popular site.

Fire Department

Arizona fires – aid response: From July 23rd-29th, six Santa Barbara firefighters were sent to the Bear fire in Arizona, approximately 60 miles east of Phoenix. The fire was located on Indian reservation land, and threatened forestry reserves which provide income for the tribes. The 1,000-plus acre fire started as a result of a lightning strike.

Library Department

Renaissance Faire at the library: Join young readers winding up their participation in the Santa Barbara Public Library System's summer programs, "Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds" (for children) and "Joust Read" (for teens) at the Renaissance Faire on August 14th from 1-5 p.m. Come to the Central Library lawn, 40 East Anapamu Street, to have your face painted, listen to strolling musicians, play the human chess game, create art, and see jugglers, fencers, and martial arts experts.

Attention Muggles!: A new "Harry Potter" is always a big literary event, and the library was ready to make lots of people happy! July 16th was the magic day when "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," book six of the J.K. Rowling series for children and adults, was released to the public. The Santa Barbara Public Library System signed an agreement with the distributor promising not to start lending copies until then, but processed 156 print copies and seven copies in CD format in advance. Also on that day, local libraries had copies for the 330 people who had reserved the book.

Parks and Recreation Department

Creeks Division receives Habitat Conservation Fund grant of \$200,000 for the Arroyo Burro Estuary and Mesa Creek Restoration Project: The Department of Parks and Recreation of the California Resources Agency administers the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program of the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990. The Fund Grant Program provides monies to local governments for the acquisition, enhancement, and restoration of deer and lion habitats, wildlife corridors and urban trails, wetlands, riparian habitat, habitat for rare and endangered, threatened or fully-protected species, and aquatic habitat for spawning and rearing of anadromous salmonids and trout resources. The \$200,000 grant represents 10% of the funds available statewide on an annual basis.

Fall & Winter Activity Guide publishes early: Due to the early start of Santa Barbara schools this year (August 29th), the Parks and Recreation Department's *Fall & Winter Activity Guide* will be available online at www.sbparksandrecreation.com beginning August 4th. All classes will be open for registration at this time, either online or in person. City residents can look forward to receiving the Activity Guide in their mailboxes beginning the week of August 15th; Goleta residents can find theirs in the *Valley Voice* newspaper. Guides will also be available at all Parks and Recreation offices and newsstands around town.

Carrillo courtyard renovation nearly completed: The front courtyard of the 91-year-old landmark Carrillo Recreation Center has been under renovation this summer and should be completed by mid-August. The new design, executed by Schock Construction, provides safe pathways, more usable space and solves drainage issues that have long plagued the building. Next steps include planting Canadian Redbud trees, and installing benches which can be adopted and dedicated.

Local youth restore murals at Ortega Park: Eight local young people hired by the Community Services Job Apprenticeship Program are completing the mural restoration at Ortega Park under the direction of Carlos Cuellar, a local artist. The murals were originally painted in 1978 when the Parks and Recreation Department and La Casa de la Raza collaborated on a mural project to deter graffiti at the park facilities. Artists, youth, and community organizations came together once again in the name of art and community. The project was funded in part by the Community Arts Grant Program using funds provided by the County of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission as well as Community Development Block Grants.

1,500 Junior Guards compete at East Beach: The July 30th Santa Barbara Junior Lifeguard Fiesta Competition brought more than 10 teams (children 9-12 years old) from Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles and Orange counties to East Beach to compete. Teams competed in events such as beach flags, run relay, paddle relay, long swim, long run and run-swim-run. Defending champions Santa Barbara Junior Guards repeated last year's success by winning all team division (A, B, and C) competitions again this year.

Ortega Park projects will improve safety: Two Ortega Park projects – the result of neighborhood meetings, Parks and Recreation Department staff input, and recommendations from the police department – will make for expanded recreation opportunities and a safer park. Project features include removal of street paving, expansion of the grass playing field, construction of a paved bike path at Quarantina Street, a larger, uninterrupted area for soccer and other field sports; and field improvements including regrading, new grass and irrigation, and resurfacing of the clay infield. The department has been working with Santa Barbara Junior High School to create a safe drop-off and pick-up area for students at the corner of East Ortega and Quarantina streets. In addition, the East Cota and Quarantina intersection will get a new handicap- accessible ramp, a well-marked crosswalk, and street improvements to help slow automobile traffic. The student drop-off area will be completed by the beginning of the fall semester, and the turf area will reopen in January 2006. Funding for the project is provided by the City of Santa Barbara, the Safe Routes to School Grant Program, and State of California bond measure grants. The second project, funded by Community Development Block Grants, includes Ortega Street enhancements and the addition of motion-detector lights on the restroom and pool buildings.

2005 Russ Morrison, Jr. Tournament benefits junior golf program: Golfers are being asked to participate in the 2005 Russ Morrison Tournament at the Santa Barbara Golf Club (SBCG) on August 19th to help support the junior golf program. The Russ Morrison, Jr. Junior Golf Program has been the cornerstone of introductory and developmental instruction to young golfers in Santa Barbara for more than 10 years. To enter, contact Matt Easterbrook at the SBGC, (805) 687-7087.

Police Department

Curtain closes on fleeing suspect: Officers attempted a traffic stop on a vehicle when they recognized a passenger as a 14-year-old gang member on probation. Instead of yielding, the vehicle fled through the lower Eastside and up to the Mesa, reaching speeds of 75+ mph. When the vehicle stopped at the dead end of Del Mar, the juvenile fled on foot over fences, onto the Santa Barbara City College campus, through a backdoor into the Garvin Theater – closely followed by an officer. The juvenile was arrested in the aisles for violation of probation and resisting arrest. The driver was arrested for felony evading and child endangerment.

Immediate response to hit-and-run leads to arrest: While a young couple was embracing at the open driver-side door of their vehicle parked on W. Montecito Street, an eastbound truck struck the man. The impact threw both victims to the ground and the truck fled the scene. Rescue personnel and officers arrived to provide emergency treatment. The woman suffered minor injuries. Her companion was admitted to Cottage Hospital in serious condition, with major injuries including fractured ribs, soft tissue damage, and internal injuries. A description of the truck was broadcast to field units, and the driver was stopped minutes later on Shoreline Drive. A summoned witness identified the truck as the involved hit-and-run vehicle. The driver was arrested for felony DUI and felony hit-and-run causing injury.

Fleeing road rage suspect is apprehended: When police spotted a vehicle on Modoc Road from a suspected road-rage incident, the driver hastily abandoned the car and fled into a residential complex. Officers set up a perimeter and began a search. After being spotted on a roof top, the desperate suspect jumped off – landing on a concrete walkway and badly spraining his ankle. The suspect was arrested after a brief struggle. He was identified as a local gang member with three felony warrants, and was booked for the warrants, resisting arrest, and vandalism. One officer suffered minor injuries.

Public Works Department

New bridge for Haley and De La Vina Streets: The city is off and running with the final design to replace the structurally deficient bridge at Mission Creek. Improvements will include architecturally appealing brick corners, an open style bridge railing, and benches to enjoy the creek views. The design is anticipated to wrap up in late 2006 with construction following shortly after. In addition, the new bridge will allow for a greater amount of creek flow to accommodate the future Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project. The city will pay 20% of the total cost, with 80% funded by a Highway and Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement grant administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

Union Pacific clean up: As part of the Union Pacific (UP) “Operation Lifesaver” Program, the Streets Division crew, in cooperation with the Police Department and Parks Division crew, removed graffiti, cleared under-brush and illegal camp sites. Crews removed 18 cubic yards of transient debris and more than 200 cubic yards of vegetation and trash along the rail corridor between Los Patos and Milpas Streets. Additionally, with the assistance of a UP employee, Streets Division crew traveled along the tracks between Las Positas to Castillo Streets, using 75 gallons of paint to remove graffiti.

Streets Division crew and Caltrans clean up debris on U.S. 101: A semi-truck had hit the back of a Caltrans truck, ripping open the semi and spilling its load of large rolls of carpet and blocking the southbound 101 freeway traffic. Upon the request of Caltrans, the Streets Division crew quickly transported a loader to the scene and removed the debris, allowing Highway 101 to reopen.

Shopping cart retrieval program being fine-tuned: In February, the city entered into an agreement with California Shopping Cart Retrieval Corporation (CART) to pick up shopping carts abandoned throughout the community. With a not-to-exceed cost of \$1,200 per month and averaging \$300 per month for cart removal, the city is paying \$3 per cart. CART and the city have identified areas where shopping carts are often abandoned and the company routinely patrols those areas.

Initially, the company was returning carts to their respective stores as a courtesy, but now has shifted to storing the carts at the City Yard on Yanonali Street. The city then gives the stores written notice to pick up their carts from the City Yard. Scolari's, the grocery store that CART found to have the most abandoned carts, has recently contracted with the company. CART will continue to contact non-member stores to have them sign up for the cart retrieval service. To report an abandoned shopping cart, call (800) 252-4613.

Granada Parking Garage construction is progressing: The contractor is continuing to build the concrete elevated decks, columns, and shear walls. Electrical lines have been installed in the basement levels and into the main panel, and a filter system for water runoff has been constructed. The last major concrete pour is scheduled for the first week of September for the metal stud framing and plastering. Our goal remains to provide parking for the 2005 holiday season.

New help for conserving water: The Watering Index is available to assist residents and gardeners in making sure the plants they care for are getting the right amount of water. If your irrigation controller (sprinkler timer) is equipped with a "water budget adjustment" feature, the Watering Index can help you adjust your irrigation schedule on a weekly basis to reflect your landscape's changing need for water. Visit www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov and click on "learn about water conservation" or www.sbwater.org, for the current Watering Index.

Waterfront Department

West Marine Grand Re-opening set for August 13th and 14th: After an 18-month absence due to the Chandlery Building remodel, West Marine opened its 4,244 square-foot store at the harbor on July 9th with a wide variety of nautical products. This month's celebration sale starts at 9 a.m. with prize drawings during the event.

Snowy plover chick survives: Against all odds, the threatened snowy plover managed to fledge one chick from the sandspit in late July. For the first time in 70 years, snowy plovers nested in the waterfront area and managed to lay three eggs on May 9, 2005. All three eggs hatched, but two of the chicks were taken by predators. Waterfront staff have been in constant contact with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as local experts in an effort to manage the area to maximize the odds for survival of the remaining chick. Volunteers spent hundreds of hours monitoring the snowy plovers, informing the public of the sensitivity of the area, and warding off predators. Their efforts resulted in a successful fledging and they are all to be commended for their efforts.

Porta-Potty dump station installed: A generous \$54,000 grant from the California Department of Boating and Waterways enabled the installation of a porta-potty dump station adjacent to the Marina 1 west restroom. This facility is free to the public and will provide a convenient location for boat owners to empty their porta-potties. This increases the harbor's pump-out and dump stations to six, facilitating our slipholders' ability to help maintain a clean marina.

Wine and Roses Charity Regatta is August 19th through 21st: This annual California State Catamaran Championship will be held at Harbor West Beach. Hosted by the Santa Barbara Yacht Club, the fundraiser benefits Make-A-Wish Foundation and has been very well attended over the years. Organizers and participants have cooperated with local businesses and with the Waterfront Parking Staff. More than 60 boats from California, Arizona, and Nevada will compete in 10 classes over a two-day race period. At last month's Harbor Commission meeting, the group was approved for a special event camping permit for the Harbor West parking lot. The 202-space parking lot will be used primarily for vehicle parking, event staging, and boat security. Waterfront Department staff support the use of waterfront facilities and the special event camping permits for these events.